

The relationship between Windham and Suzdal, Russia is in its 22nd as of 2014. The Town of Suzdal celebrated 990 years since her founding in a weekend of ceremony and activities in August.

In January, the membership of the Windham Committee received an invitation to visit Suzdal in August to join in the celebration. Unfortunately, delay in obtaining the proper visa invitations caused the visit to be canceled.

Nevertheless, we keep in touch electronically with our friends in Suzdal. Our connection is very strong with the young people, who have had the chance to visit Windham in the past. Also, our continued support for the orphanage, the medical clinic, and the women of the quilt club remains strong and important to us.

Each year, the Town of Windham budget has included \$500 as a donation to support Suzdal. This money has been supporting the orphanage for many years and, in more recent years, the donation has been shared with the medical clinic.

Recent political issues in Russia have been a concern to us. We know the hearts of our Suzdal friends and understand from a distance the issues that the ordinary Russian citizens face. As soon as a safe method of transferring the donation to Suzdal arises, we shall send the donation to those we trust at the orphanage and clinic.

We hope that the day will soon come again when we will once more travel easily back and forth to enjoy the relationship and cultural exchange that has developed over the past two decades. Electronic communication is wonderful, but face-to-face sharing is the ultimate in continuing to foster lifelong relationships.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

Lactera a. Coich Barbara Coish, Chair